



# NEWS RELEASE

## VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### **VIRGINIA'S ROW CROP YIELDS UP, SMALL GRAIN YIELDS DOWN**

According to the latest survey results, Virginia producers expect row crops to have higher yields compared to last year. Cotton yield is forecast to average 717 pounds per acre, up 54 percent from last years 465 pounds per acre. If realized production would be 130,000 bales, up 37 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 87,000 acres in 2003, down 11 percent from last year.

Soybean producers currently expect to harvest 490,000 acres with an average yield of 30 bushels per acre. Production is expected to total 14.7 million bushels, up 45 percent from last year.

Virginia's corn yields are expected to be 125 bushels per acre which is 89 percent higher than last year. Production is estimated at 34.38 million bushels, up 71 percent from 2002. Harvested acres at 275,000 is down 10 percent from last year.

Peanut production is reduced due to a decrease in acreage caused by extremely wet planting conditions and the continuing effects of the Farm Bill. Harvested acreage is expected to be 33,000 acres, down 24,000 acres from 2002. Yield is forecast at 2,700 pounds per acre which is 600 pounds per acre above the previous year. Resulting production will be 26 percent below 2002 at 89,100,000 pounds.

Hay producers expect to harvest 130,000 acres of alfalfa hay with an average yield of 3.4 tons per acre. Production is expected to total 442,000 tons, up 47 percent from 2002. There are 1.15 million acres of other hay expected to be harvested in Virginia. The yield for other hay is expected to average 2.4 tons per acre, up 71 percent from last year. Production is expected to total 2.76 million tons, up 58 percent from the previous year.

Barley yields averaged 63 bushels per acre, down 14 bushels per acre from last year. The resulting production will total 2.84 million bushels, down 8 percent from 2002. Barley producers harvested 45,000 acres, which was up 5,000 acres from last year.

Winter wheat production is expected to total 8.25 million bushels which is down 23 percent from the previous year. Yield is forecast at 50 bushels per acre compared with 63 bushels per acre a year earlier. Harvested acreage is down 5,000 acres from 2002 to 165,000 acres.

Flue tobacco producers currently expect yields to average 1,800 pounds, down 540 pounds from 2002. Production will total 36 million pounds from 20,000 acres. Harvested acreage decreased 2,000 acres due to quota reductions.

The Commonwealth's burley tobacco 2003 forecast indicates that yields will be lower than 2002. Burley yields are expected to average 1,600 pounds, down 16 percent from last year's 1,900 pound average. Production is expected to total 10.4 million pounds, down 24 percent from 2002. Producers expect to harvest 6,500 acres, down 10 percent from 2002.

Fire-cured tobacco yields are expected to average 1,700 pound per acre, down 16 percent from 2002. Production is expected to total 1.36 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2002. Producers expect to harvest 800 acres in 2003, up 70 acres from last year.

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**Corn Production Up 12 Percent from 2002**  
**Soybean Production Up 5 Percent from 2002**  
**Cotton Production Down 1 Percent from Previous Year**  
**All Wheat Production Down 1 Percent from July**

U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 10.1 billion bushels, up 12 percent from last year and 2 percent above 2001. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 139.9 bushels per acre, up 9.9 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set in 1994 when production was estimated at slightly below the 10.1 billion bushels being forecast for 2003 and yield was 138.6 bushels per acre.

U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 2.86 billion bushels, up 5 percent from 2002 but down 1 percent from 2001. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.4 bushels per acre, up 1.6 bushels from 2002. Yields are higher than 2002 across much of the United States.

All U.S. **cotton** production is forecast at 17.1 million 480-pound bales, down 1 percent from last year's 17.2 million bales. The yield is expected to average 667 pounds per harvested acre, up 2 pounds from 2002. Upland cotton production is forecast at 16.7 million 480-pound bales, 1 percent above 2002. American-Pima production is forecast at 450,500 bales, down 34 percent from last year's output. Producers expect to harvest 12.3 million acres of all cotton, 1 percent below last year. Upland cotton harvested area, at 12.1 million acres, is 60,000 acres less than a year ago.

All U.S. **wheat** production is placed at 2.29 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the July forecast but up 42 percent from 2002. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.5 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushels from last month. The final U.S. winter wheat production forecast is 1.71 billion bushels. This is down slightly from last month but 50 percent above 2002. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.9 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushels from last month.

The U.S. **barley** production for 2003 is forecast at 281 million bushels, down 3 percent from the July forecast but 24 percent above 2002. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest an average of 57.5 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels from July but up 2.6 bushels from last year. Area harvested, at 4.90 million acres, is unchanged from the July estimate but up 18 percent from 2002.

Production of **peanuts** in the U.S. is forecast at 3.96 billion pounds up 19 percent from last year's crop but down 7 percent from 2001. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.28 million acres, 5 percent above the June estimate but down 2 percent from 2002. Yields are expected to average a record high 3,102 pounds per acre, 544 pounds per acre above the 2002 level. Planted acres, at 1.32 million, are 5 percent above the June estimate but 3 percent below 2002.

U.S. all **tobacco** production for 2003 is forecast at 840 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2002 and 15 percent below 2001. If realized, this will be the smallest crop since 1908. Area for harvest is forecast at 413,710 acres, down 3 percent from 2002. Yields for 2003 are expected to average 2,031 pounds per acre, 24 pounds lower than a year ago. U.S. flue-cured tobacco production is expected to total 486 million pounds, down 6 percent from both the previous forecast and the 2002 crop. Growers plan to harvest 239,000 acres in 2003, down 3 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 2,034 pounds, down 136 pounds from the July 1 forecast and 71 pounds lower than the previous year.

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